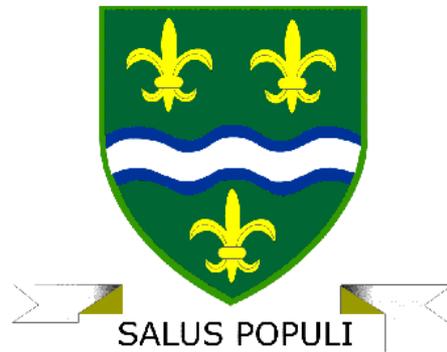


Sixth Form Induction Service

At the University of Lancaster



Our Lady's Catholic College, Lancaster
16th September, 2016

Aspire
have **not to** **more**
but to be
more

Opening Prayer (Mrs Lowe)

Lord, in this Induction Day we pray you will strengthen us in our sixth form community, and in the whole of Our Lady's Catholic College. Renew us in our love for one another as we start our new year together. May today build new friendships, strengthen old ones, and repair broken ones, so that we can live out Your Gospel message.

Amen.

Drama

"A gift"

Meditation (Rachel)

Today we are invited to look at the many gifts we have been given. Do we appreciate them? Do we use them wisely? Do we share them freely?

Scripture Reading Mt 5:13-16 (Mrs Seddon)

Salt and Light

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Reflection –Fr Luiz

World Youth Day July 2016:

Pope Francis addresses the young people (Read by Students)

"In life there is a dangerous, kind of paralysis. It is not easy to put our finger on it. I like to describe it as the paralysis that comes from confusing happiness with a sofa. In other words, to think that in order to be happy all we need is a good sofa. A sofa that makes us feel comfortable, calm, safe. A sofa that keeps us safe from any kind of pain and fear. A sofa that allows us to stay home without needing to work at, or worry about, anything. "Sofa-happiness"! That is probably the most harmful form of paralysis, which can cause the greatest harm to

young people because, little by little, without even realizing it, we start to nod off, to grow drowsy and dull.

I speak about young people who nod off, grow drowsy and dull, while others – perhaps more alert than we are, but not necessarily better – decide our future for us. For many people in fact, it is much easier and better to have drowsy and dull young people who confuse happiness with a sofa. For many people, that is more convenient than having young people who are alert and searching, trying to respond to God's dream and to all the restlessness present in the human heart. I ask you: do you want to be young people who nod off, who are drowsy and dull? Do you want others to decide your future for you? Do you want to be free? Do you want to be alert? Do you want to work hard for your future?

Dear young people, we didn't come into this world to "vegetate", to take it easy, to make our lives a comfortable sofa to fall asleep on. No, we came for another reason: to leave a mark. It is very sad to pass through life without leaving a mark. But when we opt for ease and convenience, for confusing happiness with consumption, then we end up paying a high price indeed: we lose our freedom.

My friends, Jesus is the Lord of risk, he is the Lord of the eternal "more". Jesus is not the Lord of comfort, security and ease. Following Jesus demands a good dose of courage, a readiness to trade in the sofa for a pair of walking shoes and to set out on new and uncharted paths. To blaze trails that open up new horizons capable of spreading joy, the joy that is born of God's love and wells up in your hearts with every act of mercy. To take the path of the "craziness" of our God, who teaches us to encounter him in the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, the friend in trouble, the prisoner, the refugee and the migrant, and our neighbours who feel abandoned. To take the path of our God, who encourages us to be politicians, thinkers, social activists. The God who encourages us to devise an economy marked by greater solidarity than our own. In all the settings in which you find yourselves, God's love invites you bring the Good News, making of your own lives a gift to him and to others. This means being courageous, this means being free!

The times we live in do not call for young "couch potatoes", but for young people with shoes, or better, boots laced. The times we live in

require only active players on the field, and there is no room for those who sit on the bench. Today's world demands that you be a protagonist of history because life is always beautiful when we choose to live it fully, when we choose to leave a mark. History today calls us to defend our dignity and not to let others decide our future. No! We must decide our future, you must decide your future!

That is the secret, dear friends, and all of us are called to share in it. God expects something from you. Have you understood this? God expects something from you, God wants something from you. God hopes in you. God comes to break down all our fences. He comes to open the doors of our lives, our dreams, our ways of seeing things. God comes to break open everything that keeps you closed in. He is encouraging you to dream. He wants to make you see that, with you, the world can be different. For the fact is, unless you offer the best of yourselves, the world will never be different. This is the challenge."

Bidding Prayers: (Read by Student in each form)

At the end of the prayer the reader says LORD HEAR US, we respond LORD GRACIOUSLY HEAR US

Together we pray to Mary our Mother, and the Patroness of our school, as we say:

Hail Mary, full of grace the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen

Final Prayer: (Fr Luiz)

Loving God, we entrust ourselves to you. Every day guide our minds and hearts so that we will work for the good of our school community and be a help to all people. Teach us to be more generous in our outlook, to be courageous in the face of difficulty, and to be wise in our decisions. We ask this, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessing: (Fr Luiz)

The Lord be with you

*ALL: **And with your Spirit***

*May Almighty God bless you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen***

Hymn:

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

The light that shines is the light of love
Lights the darkness from above,
It shines on me and it shines on you,
And shows what the power of love can do,
I'm gonna shine my light both far and near,
I'm gonna shine my light both bright and clear,
When there's a dark corner in this land,
I'm gonna let my little light shine...

On Monday he gave me the gift of love,
Tuesday, peace came from above,
On Wednesday he told me to have more faith,
By Thursday he gave me a little more grace,
On Friday he told me to watch and pray,
Saturday, told me just what to say,
On Sunday he gave me the power divine,
To let my little light shine...